1. (Original) A method for associating at least one medical device with a controller that is remote from the medical device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a device identifier that indicates a device address of the medical device within a communication network;

providing a data collector;

obtaining the device address via the data collector;

transferring the device address from the data collector to the controller; and

associating the controller with the medical device so that the controller can communicate with the medical device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the obtaining and transferring steps are via wireless communication.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further including the steps of, after associating, causing the controller to send a first wireless communication to the device address and receiving the first wireless communication at the medical device.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of sending the first communication includes the step of transmitting a controller address of the controller within the communication network.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 further including the step of, in response to the first wireless communication, causing the medical device to perform a safety function.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the medical device includes an indicator and the safety function includes activating the indicator.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the medical device includes a transmitter and the safety function includes causing the medical device to transmit a second wireless communication responsive to the first communication.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the second wireless communication includes the status of the medical device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the second communication is transmitted to the controller.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5 further including the steps of storing a first patient information set in the medical device indicating information related to a patient for which the medical device has been provided and storing a second patient information set in the controller indicating information related to a patient and wherein the step of causing the controller to send a first wireless communication includes the step of transmitting the second patient information set to the device address, the step of receiving includes receiving the first patient information subset at the medical device and wherein the step of causing the device to perform a first safety function includes comparing the first and second patient information sets.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further including the step of providing an indicator on the medical device and wherein the step of causing the device to perform the safety function further includes the step of, when the first and second patient information sets are different, activating the indicator.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of storing the first patient information set on the medical device includes the step of storing the first patient information set on an information device, the information device being one of a medication delivery container, a patient mounted device and a physician's computing device, establishing a communication link between the information device and the

medical device and transferring the first patient information set from the information device to the medical device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the information device is an IV bag.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of storing the first patient information set on the medical device includes the step of providing a medical device interface and entering the first patient information set via the interface device.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein each of the medical device and the controller are system devices, the method further includes the step of providing at least a third system device and wherein the step of storing the second patient information set on the controller includes the step of storing the second patient information set on the third system device, establishing a communication link between the third system device and the controller and transferring the second patient information set from the third system device to the controller.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of providing the third system device includes the step of providing a patient mounted device.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of providing a patient mounted device includes providing a wrist band.

18. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of storing the second patient information set on the controller includes the step of providing a controller interface and entering the second patient information set via the interface device.

19. (Original) The method of claim 7 further including the steps of storing a first patient information set in the medical device indicating information related to a

patient for which the medical device has been provided and storing a second patient information set in the controller indicating information related to a patient and wherein the step of causing the device to perform a safety function includes the steps of transferring a second wireless communication to the controller including the first patient information set and comparing the first and second patient information sets.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further including the step of providing an indicator on the medical device and wherein the step of causing the device to perform the safety function further includes the step of, when the first and second patient information sets are different, activating the indicator.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the medical device is an infusion pump.

22. (Original) The method of claim 2 further including the steps of, after associating, causing the controller and medical device to perform a health safety function.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further including the steps of storing a first patient information set in the medical device indicating information related to a patient for which the medical device has been provided and storing a second patient information set in the controller indicating information related to a patient, the medical device and controller each being system devices and the first and second patient information sets each being identifying information sets and, wherein, the step of performing a health safety function further includes the steps of causing a first of the system devices to transmit a first of the identifying information sets to a second of the system devices, receiving the first identifying information set at the second system device and comparing the first and second identifying information sets.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further including the step of providing an indicator linkable to the second of the system devices and wherein the step of performing a health safety function further includes the step of, where the first and second identifying sets are different, activating the indicator.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a prescription database indicating patients and corresponding prescribed medications;

providing at least one IV bag including an information device that indicates medication information including the medication included in the IV bag;

obtaining medication information from the information device;

providing at least one patient identification device including information identifying a specific patient;

obtaining the patient identifying information from the patient identification device;

accessing the database and identifying the prescriptions for the patient identified by the identification device;

comparing the medication in the IV bag with the prescriptions; and

determining if the medication in the IV bag is administrable to the patient.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42 further including the step of, when the medication is administrable to the patient, activating the pump.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43 further including the step of retrieving dosing instructions and wherein the step of activating the pump includes controlling the pump as a function of the dosing instructions.

45. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump assembly comprising the steps of:

providing an allergy database indicating patients and corresponding allergies;

providing at least one IV bag including an information device that indicates medication information including the medication included in the IV bag;

obtaining medication information from the information device;

providing at least one patient identification device including information identifying a specific patient;

obtaining the patient identifying information from the patient identification device;

accessing the database and identifying the allergies for the patient identified by the identification device;

comparing the medication in the IV bag with the allergies; and

determining if the medication in the IV bag is administrable to the patient.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the step of providing the database includes the step of providing a patient mounted device including the database.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46 wherein the step of providing a patient mounted device includes the step of providing a wristband.

48. (Original) The method of claim 47 further including the step of, when the medication is administrable to the patient, activating the pump.

49. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a contraindication database indicating medications that should not be taken together;

providing a prescription database indicating patients and corresponding prescriptions;

providing at least one IV bag including an information device that indicates medication information including the medication included in the IV bag;

obtaining medication information from the information device;

providing at least one patient identification device including information identifying a specific patient;

obtaining the patient identifying information from the patient identification device;

accessing the prescription database and identifying all current prescriptions for the patient identified by the identification device;

accessing the contraindication database and identifying all contraindicated medications corresponding to the medication in the IV bag;

comparing the contraindicated medications with the prescribed medications; and

determining if the medication in the IV bag is administrable to the patient.

50. (Original) The method of claim 49 further including the step of, when the medication is administrable to the patient, activating the pump.

51. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump assembly comprising the steps of:

providing at least a first IV bag including an information device that indicates medication information corresponding to the first IV bag;

providing at least a second IV bag including an information device that indicates medication information corresponding to the second IV bag

obtaining medication information from the information devices;

employing the obtained information to determine a control regimen for the medications in the IV bags; and

controlling the infusion pump in accordance with the control regimen.

52. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein the step of employing includes the step of determining titration rates for each of the first and second medications.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52 wherein the step of determining titration rates includes the step of determining the prescribed volumes for each of the first and second medications, comparing the total prescribed volume with a maximum total titration volume and performing a health safety function when the total prescribed volume exceeds the maximum volume.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53 further including the step of providing an indicator and wherein the step of performing a health safety function includes the step of activating the indicator.

55. (Original) The method of claim 53 wherein the health safety function includes limiting the total titration volume to a rate below the maximum volume.

56. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump assembly comprising the steps of:

providing at least a first IV bag including an information device that indicates medication information corresponding to the first IV bag;

providing at least one physician identification device;

obtaining medication information from the information devices;

obtaining a physician's identification from the physician's identification device; and

determining if the physician is authorized to administer the first medication to a patient.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56 wherein, when the physician is authorized to administer the first medication to a patient, the method further includes the step of activating the pump.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 57 further including the step of providing a clock for tracking ~~dates~~ times and wherein the step of obtaining other information includes determining the medication information ~~date~~ time and the physician identifying ~~date~~ time when the medication information and the physician identifying information are received, respectively and, where the step of employing includes comparing the medication information and the physician identifying ~~dates~~ times and, where the ~~dates~~ times are separated by greater than a threshold time period, disabling the infusion pump.

59. (Original) The method of claim 57 wherein the medication information includes a physician indicator indicating at least one physician authorized to administer the medication in the IV bag and wherein the step of obtaining the medication information includes obtaining the physician indicator and the step of determining if the

physician is authorized to administer the medication includes comparing the physician identification with the physician indicator.

60. (Original) The method of claim 57 further including the step of providing a physician database that identifies physicians authorized to administer medications and wherein the step of employing further includes the step of accessing the physician database, identifying the physician identified by the physician identifier in the database and determining if the physician is authorized to administer the medication in the IV bag.

61. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump assembly comprising the steps of:

associating the IV pump with a specific patient;

providing at least a first IV bag including an information device that indicates medication information corresponding to the first IV bag;

obtaining medication information from the information device;

obtaining information related to the specific patient associated with the pump;

employing the medication information and the specific patient information to determine a control regimen for the medication in the IV bag; and

controlling the infusion pump in accordance with the control regimen.

62. (Original) The method of claim 61 wherein the medication information includes a second patient identifier indicating a patient for which the medication in the at least one IV bag has been dispensed and wherein the step of employing includes the step of comparing the second patient identifier and the information indicating the patient associated with the infusion pump.

63. (Original) The method of claim 62 wherein the step of controlling includes activating the pump when the patient identifier and the information indicating the patient associated with the infusion pump indicate the same patient.

64. (Original) The method of claim 62 further including the step of providing an interface device and wherein the step of controlling includes causing the interface device to indicate when the second patient identifier and the information indicating the patient associated with the infusion pump fail to indicate the same patient.

65. (Original) The method of claim 61 wherein the step of associating includes linking a second IV bag to the pump and obtaining a second patient identifier there from prior to providing the at least one IV bag.

66. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a first IV bag including a first information device indicating information related to the first IV bag;

obtaining the information from the first information device;

associating the pump with the first IV bag;

removing the first IV bag from the pump;

providing a second IV bag including a second information device that indicates medication information corresponding to the second IV bag;

obtaining medication information from the second information device;

comparing the first and second bag information to determine if the first and second medications correspond to similar prescriptions.

67. (Original) The method of claim 66 further including the step of performing a health safety function based on the comparison.

68. (Original) The method of claim 67 wherein the step of performing a health safety function includes the step of, when the first and second medications are identical and correspond to the same prescription, facilitating dispensation of the second medication via the pump.

69. (Original) The method of claim 68 further including the step of, prior to providing the second IV bag, setting titration rate of the medication in the first IV bag and wherein the method further includes the step of obtaining the titration rate for the first IV bag when the first IV bag is removed from the pump and, when the second IV bag is provided, setting the titration rate for the second IV bag to the obtained rate.

70. (Original) The method of claim 67 wherein the step of performing a health safety function includes the step of, when the first and second medications are identical and correspond to different prescriptions for the same patient, facilitating dispensation of the first medication via the pump.

71. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump including at least one infusion pump assembly where a separate line links an IV bag to the at least one pump assembly, the method comprising the steps of:

associating the at least one pump assembly with a specific control regimen corresponding to the linked IV bag;

providing a sensor for the line to determine when the line is disconnected from the at least one infusion pump assembly;

monitoring the sensor; and

when the sensor indicates that the line has been disconnected from a corresponding pump assembly, disassociating the pump assembly from the corresponding control regimen.

72. (Original) The method of claim 71 further including the step of providing an indicator and wherein, when the assembly is disassociated, causing the indicator to indicate the disassociation.

73. (Original) The method of claim 72 further including the step of providing a remote controller that includes the indicator and wherein the step of causing the

indicator includes transmitting a signal to the controller and causing the indicator to indicate.

74. (Original) The method of claim 71 further including the step of providing a memory and wherein the step of associating includes storing the specific control regimen in the memory and the step of disassociating includes the step of erasing the memory.

75. (Original) The method of claim 74 wherein the step of providing the memory includes providing the memory on the pump assembly.

76. (Original) The method of claim 74 wherein the step of providing the memory includes providing the memory on a control device that is remote from the pump assembly.

77. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump including at least one pump assembly comprising the steps of:

providing an information device that indicates a first set of process information related to an infusion process, the first information set including a patient identifier;

obtaining the first information set from the information device; and

associating the pump with the patient.

78. (Original) The method of claim 77 wherein the step of providing includes providing a patient identification device including the first information set.

79. (Original) The method of claim 78 wherein the step of providing includes providing a wristband secured to a patient.

80. (Original) The method of claim 77 further including the step of, after associating the pump with the patient identifier, providing a second information device

including a second set of process information related to the process to be performed by at least one of the pump assemblies, obtaining the second information set and associating at least one of the pump assemblies with the second information set.

81. (Original) The method of claim 80 wherein the step of providing the second information device includes providing an IV bag including a tag that includes the second information set and wherein the step of obtaining includes obtaining the second information set from the tag.

82. (Original) The method of claim 81 wherein the patient identifier is a first patient identifier and the second information set includes a second patient identifier indicating the patient for which the IV bag has been prepared and, wherein, the method further includes the steps of, prior to associating the second information set with the assembly, comparing the first and the second patient identifiers and, only when the first and second identifiers indicate the same patient, associating the second information set with the assembly.

83. (Original) The method of claim 82 wherein, when the first and second patient identifiers are different, indicating that that the first and second patient identifiers are different.

84. (Original) The method of claim 83 further including the steps of linking a tubing line between the IV bag and the at least one pump assembly and activating the pump assembly when the first and second patient identifiers indicate the same patient.

85. (Original) The method of claim 84 wherein the obtained information also medication dispensation information and wherein the step of activating includes controlling the at least one pump assembly to operate according to the dispensation information.

86. (Original) The method of claim 85 wherein the medication dispensation information includes infusion rate and duration.

87. (Original) The method of claim 85 wherein the medication dispensation information includes medication amount.

88. (Original) The method of claim 83 further including the steps of providing a sensor for sensing when the IV bag is de-linked from the at least one pump assembly and, when the bag is de-linked, disassociating the at least one pump assembly and the patient.

89. (Original) The method of claim 88 further including the steps of providing a sensor for sensing when the IV bag is de-linked from the at least one pump assembly and, when the bag is de-linked, disabling the at least one pump assembly.

90. (Original) The method of claim 89 wherein the step of providing includes providing an IV bag mounted device.

91. (Original) The method of claim 90 further including the step of, after associating the pump with the patient, providing a second information device including a second set of process information related to a process to be performed by the least one of the pump assembly and obtaining the information from the second information device.

92. (Original) The method of claim 91 wherein the patient identifier is a first patient identifier and the second information set includes a second patient identifier indicating the patient to which the pump assembly is to be connected and, wherein, the method further includes the steps of comparing the first and second patient identifiers and, when the first and second identifiers indicate the same patient, enabling the at least one pump assembly.

93. (Original) The method of claim 77 further including the step of linking an IV bag corresponding to the infusion process to the at least one pump assembly.

94. (Original) The method of claim 93 further including the step of enabling the at least one pump assembly.

95. (Original) The method of claim 94 further including the step of providing a sensor for sensing when the IV bag is linked to the at least one pump assembly and, when the bag is de-linked from the at least one pump assembly, disabling the at least one pump assembly.

96. (Original) The method of claim 95 further including the step of disassociating the at least one assembly from the patient when the IV bag is de-linked.

97. (Original) The method of claim 90 further including the steps of, after associating the pump with the patient identifier:

providing a second IV bag including a second information device that includes a second patient identifier indicating the patient for whom the second IV bag has been prepared;

obtaining the second information set from the second information device; and

comparing the first and second identifiers.

98. (Original) The method of claim 97 further including the step of performing a health safety function based on the comparison.

99. (Original) The method of claim 98 wherein the step of performing a health safety function includes the step of, when the first and second identifiers are different, disabling the pump.

100. (Original) The method of claim 98 wherein the pump includes an indicator and wherein the step of performing a health safety function includes the step of, when the first and second identifiers are different, activating the indicator.

101. (Original) The method of claim 98 wherein the pump includes a mechanical closure member for closing pump inlet ports and wherein the step of performing a health safety function includes the step of, when the first and second identifiers are different, locking the inlet ports.

102. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump including at least one pump assembly comprising the steps of:

providing an information device that indicates a first set of process information related to an infusion process, the first information set including a physician identifier identifying at least one physician;

obtaining the first information set from the information device; and

associating the pump with the at least one physician identified by the physician identifier.

103. (Original) The method of claim 102 wherein the identifier is a first physician identifier and the method further includes the steps of providing a physician identifier device including at least a second physician identifier and obtaining the second physician identifier.

104. (Original) The method of claim 103 wherein the times the when the first and second physician identifiers are obtained are first and second times and wherein the method further includes the steps of, determining the duration of the period and controlling the pump as a function of the duration.

105. (Original) The method of claim 104 wherein the step of controlling includes disabling the pump when the period duration exceeds a threshold duration and enabling the pump when the period duration is less than the threshold duration.

106. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion process comprising the steps of:

prior to releasing an IV bag and corresponding medication for delivery to a patient, identifying information specifying a corresponding prescription;

providing an information device on the bag including the specifying information;

providing a database including prescription information;

subsequent to release, obtaining the information from the information device including the prescription;

searching the database for the prescription; and

where the prescription is in the database, providing the time ~~date~~ on the information device.

107. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106 wherein the information device is an electronic device and wherein the step of providing the ~~date~~ time includes the step of writing a current ~~date~~ time to the device.

108. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106 wherein the information device is a first device and is printed and the step of providing the ~~date~~ time includes the steps of printing a new information device to be secured to the IV bag and securing the new device to the IV bag.

109. (Original) The method of claim 108 further including the step of disabling the first device.

110. (Original) The method of claim 109 wherein the step of disabling includes the step of appending the new device over the first device.

111. (Canceled)

112. (Canceled)

113. (Canceled)

114. (Canceled)

115. (Canceled)

116. (Canceled)

117. (Canceled) .

118. (Canceled)

119. (Canceled) .

120. (Canceled)

121. (Canceled)

122. (Canceled)

123. (Canceled)

124. (Canceled)

125. (Canceled) .

126. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least first and second IV bags;

linking the first bag to the infusion pump;

storing information related to a first infusion process corresponding to the first bag;

de-linking the first bag from the pump assembly;

obtaining information describing a second infusion process corresponding to the second bag;

comparing the second infusion process information to the first infusion process information to determine if the second process is a continuation of the first process and where the second process is a continuation of the first process, enabling the pump assembly to perform the second process.

127. (Original) The method of claim 126 further including the step of altering the first process prior to storing the information related to the first process and, wherein, prior to enabling the pump assembly to perform the second process, the method further includes the steps of indicating the modification to the first process and seeking authority to similarly alter the second process.

128. (Original) The method of claim 126 wherein the step of providing includes providing information devices on each of the first and second bags including first and second process information sets corresponding to each of the first and second processes and wherein the steps of storing and obtaining include storing and obtaining the first and second process information sets, respectively.

129. (Original) A method of controlling an IV pump using a processor, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining patient information form a patient identifier;

recording a collection time when the patient information is obtained;

providing patient information and collection time to the processor;

comparing the collection time with the current time; and

based on the comparison, performing a health safety function.

130. (Original) The method of claim 129 wherein the step of obtaining includes the steps of providing a data collector and using the data collector to obtain the patient information from the patient identifier and wherein the step of providing includes the step of transferring the patient information and collection time to the IV pump processor.

131. (Original) The method of claim 129 wherein the step of performing a health safety function includes the step of disabling the pump when the period between the collection and current time is greater than a threshold period.

132. (Original) The method of claim 129 further including the step of linking an indicator to the processor and wherein the step of performing a health safety function includes activating the indicator when the period between the collection and current time is greater than a threshold period.

133. (Canceled)

134. (Canceled)

135. (Canceled)

136. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting and using patient information and IV bag information using a data collector, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an indicator;

using the data collector to obtain a first ~~patient~~ information set ~~from a patient identifier~~;

using the data collector to obtain a second ~~patient~~ information set from an IV bag identifier;

determining a first time ~~date~~ when the first ~~patient~~ information set is collected;

determining a second time ~~date~~ when the second ~~patient~~ information set is collected;

determining a current time ~~date~~, the current time ~~date~~ being a third time ~~date~~;

comparing the first, second and third times ~~dates~~; and

when the duration between at least one of the first and third times ~~dates~~ and the second and third times ~~dates~~ exceeds a threshold period, activating the indicator.

137. (Original) The method of claim 136 wherein the indicator is linked to one of the data collector and an infusion pump.

138. (Original) The method of claim 136 further including the step of providing a comparison device linked to one of the collector and an infusion pump and wherein the step of comparing is performed by the comparison device.

139. (Cancelled).

140. (Cancelled).

141. (Cancelled).

142. (Cancelled).

143. (Cancelled).

144. (Cancelled).

145. (Cancelled).

146. (Cancelled).

147. (Cancelled).

148. (Cancelled).

149. (Cancelled).

150. (Cancelled).

151. (Cancelled).

152. (Original) A method for controlling an infusion pump assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a blood type database indicating medications that should not be taken by persons with specific blood types;

providing at least one IV bag including an information device that indicates medication information including the medication included in the IV bag;

obtaining medication information from the information device;

providing at least one patient identification device including information identifying a specific patient;

obtaining the patient identifying information from the patient identification device;

accessing the blood type database and identifying all medications that the patient should not take; and

determining if the medication in the IV bag is administrable to the patient.

153. (Original) The method of claim 152 further including the step of, when the medication is administrable to the patient, activating the pump.

154. (Cancelled).

155. (Cancelled).

156. (Cancelled).

157. (Cancelled).

158. (Cancelled).

159. (Canceled)

160. (Canceled)

161. (Canceled)

162. (Canceled)

163. (Canceled)

164. (Canceled)

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166. (Canceled)

167. (Canceled) .

168. (Canceled)

169. (Canceled)

170. (Canceled)

171. (Canceled)

172. (Canceled)

173. (Canceled)

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182. (Canceled) .

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187. (Canceled)

188. (Canceled) .

189. (Canceled)

190. (Canceled)

191. (Canceled)

192. (Canceled)

193. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the obtaining step includes reading a bar code on the medical device and the transferring step includes wirelessly transferring the device address.

194. (New) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of obtaining at least one of medication information from a medication container, patient information from a patient identification device and physician identification from a physician identification device, the method further including at least two of:

identifying the time at which the address information is obtained;

identifying the time at which the medication information is obtained from the medication container;

identifying the time at which the patient information is obtained from the patient identification device;

identifying the time at which the physician identification is obtained from the physician identification device;

identifying a prescribed time indicating the time prescribed for delivery of the medication to a patient;

identifying an authorize activation time indicating when a device has been authorized to deliver a medication to a patient; and

identifying a delivery activation time indicating when an activation command has been received to deliver a medication to a patient via the device;

the method further including the step of comparing at least two of the identified times and when the duration between the compared times exceeds a threshold period, performing a health safety function.

195. (New) The method of claim 194 wherein the step of identifying at least two of the times includes identifying at least three of the times, the step of comparing including determining when the duration between the at least three times exceeds the threshold period, the health safety function performed when the duration between the compared times exceeds the threshold period.

196. (New) The method of claim 194 wherein the step of identifying at least two of the times includes identifying at least four of the times, the step of comparing including determining when the duration between the at least four times exceeds the threshold period, the health safety function performed when the duration between the compared times exceeds the threshold period.

197. (New) The method of claim 194 wherein the each of the step of obtaining the medical device address and the step of obtaining at least one of the medication information, the patient information and the physician information include reading a machine readable label.

198. (New) The method of claim 194 wherein the step of obtaining at least one of medication information from a medication container, patient information from a patient identification device and physician identification from a physician identification device includes obtaining the information using the data collector, the method further including transferring the obtained information to the controller.

199. (New) The method of claim 198 wherein the step of identifying at least two times includes identifying the at least two times using the data collector, the method further including the step of transferring the at least two times to the controller.

199. (New) The method of claim 194 wherein the step of performing a health safety function includes activating an indicator at one of the data collector, the medical device, and the controller.

200. (New) The method of claim 194 wherein the step of performing a health safety function includes one of the data collector and the controller transmitting a signal to the medical device to disable the medical device.

201 (New) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of obtaining patient identification information indicating a patient that is to be associated with the controller, associating the controller with the patient identification information, providing medication information on a medication container, obtaining the medication information from a medication container, using the medication information to determine specific patient information for whom the medication was dispensed, comparing the patient identification information indicating the patient that is associated with the controller and the specific patient identification information and determining that the patient identification information indicating the patient that is associated with the controller is different than the specific patient identification information and activating an indicator.

202. (New) The method of claim 3 further including the step of using the medical device address to send the first wireless communication.

203. (New) The method of claim 2 further including the steps of, after the step of associating the one medical device with the controller, communicating wherein the medical device wirelessly transmits information to the controller.

204. (New) The method of claim 203 further including the steps of providing at least a second medical device that is not associated with the controller wherein, when any medical device transmits information that is received by the controller, the controller determines if the controller is associated with the transmitting device and wherein the controller only uses received information from associated medical devices and ignores received information from devices that are not affiliated with the controller.

205. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the medical device is a first medical device and the first medical device address is a first medical device address, the method further including the steps of providing a first indicator that is associated with the first medical device, providing a second medical device with a second device address and a second indicator, obtaining the second device address via the data

collector; transferring the second device address from the data collector to the controller and associating the controller with the second medical device so that the controller can communicate with the second medical device, using the controller to select information related to the first medical device and using the first medical device address to send a signal to the first medical device, receiving the signal by the first medical device and using the signal to activate the first indicator.

206. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one medical device includes an infusion pump, the method further including the steps of transmitting a signal from the infusion pump to the controller indicating that the infusion pump is no longer operative and, when the signal is received at the controller, disassociating the controller from the infusion pump.

207. (New) The method of claim 206 further including the steps of, prior to transmitting the signal from the infusion pump to the controller indicating that the infusion pump is no longer operative, determining that a infusion pump line is no longer connected to the infusion pump, the step of transmitting the signal from the infusion pump including transmitting the signal when the line is disconnected from the infusion pump.

208. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the medical device is a first medical device and the device address is a first medical device address, the method further including the steps of providing a patient identifier that includes patient identifying information, using the data collector to obtain the patient identifying information from the patient identifier and transmitting the patient identifying information to the controller.

209. (New) The method of claim 208 further including the steps of providing at least a first medication container that includes medication information associated with a medication in the first medication container, the medication information including specific patient information indicating the patient for whom medication in the container is

prescribed, obtaining at least a subset of the medication information from the first medication container using the data collector and transmitting the at least a subset of the medication information to the controller.

210. (New) The method of claim 209 further including the steps of using the medication information transmitted to the controller to identify specific patent information indicating the patient for whom the medication in the first medication container has been prescribed, comparing the patient identifying information from the patient identifier and the specific patient information and when the compared information is different, activating an indicator.

211. (New) The method of claim 210 wherein the step of using the medication information transmitted to the controller to identify specific patient information includes the step of transferring the medication information from the controller to a remote computer and locating the specific patient identification information by the remote computer in a medication database.

212. (New) The method of claim 1 including the steps of providing a medication container with a medication identifier containing medication information, using the data collector to obtain the medication information from the medication identifier, transmitting the medication information from the data collector to the controller and using the medication information to control the medical device.

213. (New) The method of claim 212 wherein the step of using the medication information to control the medical device includes the steps of the controller transferring the medication information to a medication database, using the medication information to identify medication control information in the database, providing the medication control information to the controller and the controller using the medication control information to control the medical device.

214. (New) The method of 1 wherein the medical device includes a infusion pump that includes at least first and second pump assemblies and where the device address is a first device address associated with the first pump assembly, the method further including the steps of providing a second device address for the second pump assembly, obtaining the second device address using the data collector, transmitting the second device address to the controller and the controller monitoring operation of the first and second pump assemblies.

215. (New) The method of claim 214 further including the steps of obtaining with the data collector first and second medication information from first and second medication labels associated with first and second infusion bags containing first and second medications and transferring the first and second medication information to the controller and determining that the first and second medications can be used together.

216. (New) The method of claim 215 wherein the step of determining that the first and second medications can be used together includes determining they are for the same patient.

217. (New) The method of claim 1 further including the step of associating the controller with a patient.

218. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the steps of providing the first and second IV bags includes the step of dispensing the same medication in the first and second IV bags.

219. (New) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of identifying at least two times when data obtaining events occur, comparing the data obtaining times and when the duration between data obtaining times for the events exceeds a threshold period, performing a health safety function.

220. (New) The method of claim 219 further including the step of obtaining at least one of medication information from a medication container, patient information from a patient identification device and physician identification from a physician identification device, the step of identifying at least two times including identifying at least two of:

the time at which the address information is obtained;

the time at which the medication information is obtained from the medication container;

the time at which the patient information is obtained from the patient identification device;

the time at which the physician identification is obtained from the physician identification device;

a prescribed time indicating the time prescribed for delivery of the medication to a patient;

an authorize activation time indicating when a device has been authorized to deliver a medication to a patient; and

a delivery activation time indicating when an activation command has been received to deliver a medication to a patient via the device.